

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1373

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 4134

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGEN, JM, CA

SUBJECT: MANLEY VISIT TO OTTAWA, OCTOBER 28-29

REF: A. OTTAWA 3995, B. STATE 248250

1. PASSED ON CURRENT SIGNALS ON US/JAMAICAN RELATIONS
PER SECSTATE 248250 TO PRIME MINISTER'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ADVISOR IVAN HEAD, AFTER HAVING GIVEN THEM TO SEAGRAM'S
PRESIDENT BRONFMAN. EMPHASIZED THAT WE DO NOT IN ANY WAY
OPPOSE A CANADIAN LOAN TO JAMAICA, AND INDEED HAD GRANTED
NEW PL-40 ASSISTANCE OURSELVES.

2. PICKING UP ON CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER
TRUDEAU AND PRESIDENT FORD ON SEQUOIA ON JUNE 16, I NOTED
THAT DESPITE CANADIAN EFFORTS TO GET THE MESSAGE TO THE
JAMAICANS THAT WE ARE NOT ON A "DESTABILIZATION" PROGRAM,
THAT CHARGE REMAINED CURRENT FARE.

3. HEAD EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE. HE CONFIRMED THAT
TRUDEAU HAD WRITTEN MANLEY FOLLOWING THE SEQUOIA TALK TO
SAY THAT HE HAD QUERIED THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY,
AND GENERAL SCOWCROFT ON DESTABILIZATION, AND HAD RECEIVED
CATEGORICAL DENIALS IN WHICH HE HAD FULL CONFIDENCE.
JAMAICANS HAD RESPONDED, HEAD SAID, BY MODERATING THEIR
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TONE IN JULY AND HEAD HAD BEEN GIVEN SEVERAL CONCILIATORY

DUDLEY THOMPSON STATEMENTS TO SHOW IT. HOWEVER, IF CHARGES WERE NOW BEING MADE AGAIN (AS I SAID THEY WERE) TRUDEAU WOULD MOST LIKELY WISH TO TAKE THE ISSUE UP AGAIN WITH MANLEY.

4. HEAD SAID THAT PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT WERE NOT GOING WELL. MANLEY HAD BEEN INVITED BY HEAD IN FEBRUARY ON BASIS THAT VISIT WOULD BE A GOOD THING FOR COMMONWEALTH, FOR JAMAICA AND FOR MANLEY IN HIS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, BUT THAT NO LARGE-SCALE ECONOMIC BENEFITS COULD BE EXPECTED. HOWEVER, JAMAICANS ARE VIGOROUSLY PUTTING FORWARD DEMANDS FOR \$150 MILLION LINE OF CREDIT. HEAD SAID THAT CANADA NO LONGER CONSIDERS JAMAICA A PRIORITY COUNTRY FOR AID (BECAUSE ITS PER CAPITA INCOME IS TOO HIGH), BUT WOULD CONSIDER IT FAVORABLY FOR EXPORT CREDIT. LIKE THE US, CANADA WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY ON IMF FINANCING FOR JAMAICA, BUT WOULD NOT FAVOR RELAXATION OF ANY OF THE CUSTOMARY CONDITIONS.

5. HEAD ALSO COMMENTED THAT TRUDEAU WAS WELL AWARE OF THE POOR QUALITY OF ADVICE MANLEY WAS GETTING IN BOTH THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL AREAS, BUT SEES NO WAY IN WHICH TO CHANGE THE BALANCE EXCEPT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

6. I CAUTIONED HEAD THAT IN THEIR CURRENT MOOD JAMAICANS MIGHT TAKE CANADIAN REFUSAL OF LOAN AS NEW EVIDENCE OF "DESTABILIZATION". HE SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THAT, AND IS ADVISING TRUDEAU TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE ON THE ISSUE.
ENDERS

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